

Hunter House
2 miles north of Yellow House on a road east of
State Route 662, Oley Township
Yellow House Vicinity
Berks County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-1034

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Design and Construction
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

HUNTER HOUSE

Location: Pennsylvania, Berks County, Yellow House Vicinity,
Oley Township, 2 mi. N. of Yellow House on a road
E. of State Route 662.

Present Owner: Leon Sittler

Present Occupant: Leon Sittler

Present Use: Residence

Brief Statement of Significance: An example of a Georgian style house with an unusually elaborate doorway.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

- A. This handsome stone house was built in 1803 by a member of the Hunter family. According to the Davis maps of 1876, this house apparently belonged to G. S. Keifer at that time, and according to the Fagan maps of 1861 to Abm. Keefer then.
- B. References:
1. Croll, P. C., Annals of the Oley Valley (Reading, Penna.: Reading Eagle Press, 1926) pp. 96-103.
 2. Davis, F. A., Illustrated Historical Atlas of Berks County, Pennsylvania (Reading, Penna.: Reading Eagle Publishing House, 1876).
 3. Fagan, L., Map of Berks County, Pennsylvania (Philadelphia: H. F. Bridgens, 1861).
 4. Montgomery, R. S., Houses of Oley Valley, The Dutchman, Vol. VI, No. 3 (Winter, 1954-1955), pp. 16-26.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

The Hunter house is a five-bay, two-story, stone house with end chimneys and a gable roof. The architectural detail and the proportions are Georgian in style.

Structurally, the house is sound, but the exterior trim has been neglected and needs repairing and painting.

The walls and foundations are of rough, cut, random stone, the chimneys, as they emerge above the roof ridge, are of brick.

The front door is set in a very elaborate pedimented doorway covered with unusual detail. Fluted engaged columns at the sides without entasis have small, simplified Ionic capitals. A semi-circular fanlight with a complex pattern of mullions and carved enframement fills the triangular pediment.

The windows are very large double hung sash of six over six panes. The original shutters have been removed. Wood lintels simulate cut stone with projecting keystones.

The gable roof is covered with composition shingles. There is a very rich cornice of classic form with an elaborate bed mold on the front.

The house is T shape in plan with a main front block and a rear wing. The main block is symmetrical with two rooms divided by a central hallway. The main stairway to the second floor is in the central hall. The kitchen and service rooms are in the rear wing.

The house faces east at the northwest corner of, and close to, two intersecting roads.

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